



NRA Convenes in Providence, Rhode Island

Sirarpie Der Nersessian Receives Prelacy's Highest Civilian Honor



Sirarpie Der Nersessian

This year, the "Man of the Year" is a woman.

Sirarpie Der Nersessian, internationally renowned scholar was awarded the Eastern Prelacy's highest civilian honor. It is the first time the honor has been bestowed upon a woman.

A statement released by the Prelacy's Executive Council states that Prof. Der Nersessian was "elected person of the year, for her distinguished achievements and outstanding scholarship in the Humanities and the Arts and for perpetuating and symbolizing the centuries old traditions of the contribution of Armenian women towards civilization and culture."

Professor Der Nersessian was born in Constantinople, the niece of the late Patriarch Malachy Ormanian. She studied history and art history at the Sorbonne, from which she received her degree of Docteur es Lettres in 1936. At the Sorbonne she studied under Charles Diehl and G. Millet.

From 1926 to 1929 she was Chargee de Conferences in the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris. In 1930 she went to Wellesley College in Massachusetts, first as Lecturer, then as Professor of Art and, from 1937 to 1946, Chairman of the Department of Art and Director of the Farnsworth Museum. In 1946 she was appointed Professor of Byzantine Art and Archaeology at Dumbarton Oaks, and Member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, becoming Professor Emerita in 1963. Professor Der Nersessian has lectured at various universities in the United States and France, and has won academic distinction in both countries.

As an intellectual, Professor Der Nersessian has performed with calm assurance, steadiness, and charm. Her sound judgment, her quick and deep understanding of persons and issues, her forthrightness in stating her convictions, her graciousness and humor have been invaluable to those who have been honored with her acquaintance.

The leading medievalist and art historian has received many honors in recognition of her outstanding achievements including The Order of St. Gregory the Illuminator, which His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, bestowed upon her when he visited this country in 1961. She is the first woman to receive this decoration.

A prolific writer, many of her articles have appeared in prestigious publications throughout the world. She recently finished working on the New Julfa Manuscript School Introduction and "The Cilician Miniatures," an important contribution in the study of Armenian miniature art, is now in progress.

Her published books include: "Armenia and the Byzantine Empire," Harvard University Press, 1945; The Chester Beatty Library: A Catalogue of the Armenian Manuscripts, 2 volumes, 1958; "Armenian Manuscripts in the Freer Gallery of Art," 1963; "Aght'amar. Church of the Holy Cross," Harvard University Press, 1965; "L'Art Byzantine. Art europeen," Paris, 1965; "The Armenians," Praeger Publishers, 1970; "Armenian Manuscripts in Walters Art Gallery," 1975; and "Armenian Art," 1978.

Summary of Panel Discussions

Here are some excerpts from the various panels which met during the NRA:

INTERDIOCESAN

Resolved that the National Representative Assembly hereby instructs the Prelacy's Executive Council and its interdiocesan committee to proceed forthwith in its discussions with the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America in the implementation of the agreed guidelines. Such agreed guidelines will include the drafting of a by-laws document for the new unified diocese.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

The panel strongly recommends the hiring of a religious educational director. The panel recommends and encourages the Religious Council to implement seminars and retreats on every level of church life; panel fully endorses the current clergy recruitment program; panel urges the Prelate and Executive Council to enter into dialogue with community organizations to establish ways and means whereby the youth of our Church can become more closely involved in all aspects of church life.

ARMENIAN EDUCATION:

Proposed: to produce a kit of Armenian culture and language to be loaned to schools or other groups or individuals wishing to learn about Armenians and exhibit our culture; to initiate adult education and motivate parents to have more interest in Armenian schools; to urge the NRA to ask the Educational Council of the Prelacy to suggest that all pastors, trustees and ARS chapters have close cooperation with local educational committees encouraging Armenian schools.

LADIES GUILD:

Proposed: Whereas, the U.N. has proclaimed 1979 as the International Year of the Child, the Prelacy should organize a youth activities committee consisting of delegates from each parish to coordinate and implement the following: commemorative 1979 Christmas stamps to be drawn by Armenian children; posters and photography exhibitions by children to be held at the Prelacy; children's poetry, stories, and songs be published by the Prelacy; a 1980 calendar contain the artistic works of children; OUTREACH publish special works done by Armenian children.

FINANCE:

Resolved that the Audit Committee report be approved as read. Recommendation of Audit Committee to be forwarded to Executive Council for implementation.

Special Awards Presented During NRA Banquet

Several awards were presented during the NRA banquet which took place on Saturday evening, May 17, in Providence's Holiday Inn, with a large crowd in attendance.

On a local level, Miss Armine Papazian was honored for her 40 years of service to the church. The presentation was made by Rev. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian. Mr. Peter Tikoian presented an award to Mr. Arshaver Harmaian for his many years as a Deacon at Sts. Vartanantz.

On the Prelacy level, Mr. Robert Derian was awarded a plaque for his many years of service as a devoted member of the Executive Council and more recently as a member of the Central Executive Council of the Catholicosate of Cilicia. Similarly honored was Dr. Christopher Babigian for his long tenure as a member of the Executive Council and his equally long dedication to the Armenian Church.

Unity of the Armenian Churches in America and the missionary aspect of the Church were the dominant themes of the National Representative Assembly which convened in Providence last month.

The Assembly was divided into four major panel groups: Interdiocesan; Armenian Education; Finance, Budget and Audit; and Religious Education. In addition to these four panels there also was a Conference of Boards of Trustees and a Conference of Church Ladies Guilds, the first of its kind for the NRA.

His Grace Bishop Ashjian presided over the Assembly of 78 lay and 13 clerical delegates. Also in attendance as special guests were Archbishop Hrant Khatchaturian, former Prelate and the Very Rev. Barouyr Ekmekjian.

During the clergy conference which took place one day prior to the NRA, the missionary aspect of the Armenian church was explored, as well as detailed discussions on religious services, lectures, liturgical and administrative matters. Rev. Khoren Habeshian read a paper on the Missionary activities of the Armenian Apostolic Church throughout history and Rev. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian presented a paper entitled, "The Missionary Activity of the Armenian Church, Reality and Perspective." The third lecture at the Religious Conference was delivered by Rev. Asoghik Kelegian on "Armenian Musicology." Next year's religious conference will be woven around the theme, "The Armenian Church in the Modern World."

Elected officials of the NRA were: Sarkis Teshoian, Esq., chairman; Martin Nalbandian, Esq., vice chairman; Rev. Armen Ishkanian and Mr. Armen Kerbekian, secretaries. Rev. Ishkanian was later replaced by Mr. Garabed Tashjian.

A First

The Conference of Church Ladies Guilds was a first of its kind for the NRA, with Mrs. Lucille Manuelian acting as moderator. Mrs. Everett Blake, a Missionary for fifty years, spoke on "Personal Experiences as a Missionary in Turkey and Important Women in the Church."

"New Horizons" was the subject of one of the panels. "The International Year of the Child" was the theme used by the second panel. Mrs. Ani Nalbandian presented the topic and led discussions.

Onnic Marashian Elected

Mr. Onnic Marashian was elected to the Executive Council to fill the remaining term of Mr. Vartkes Markarian who was forced to resign due to business commitments. Mr. Marashian, a resident of Oradell, N.J., is editor of OILGRAM, a McGraw Hill daily newspaper on petroleum. He is also a member of the Prelacy's Publications Committee. He formerly served in the Armenian communities of New Jersey and Washington, D.C.

Unity Stressed

During the summation of the Assembly activities, Bishop Ashjian stressed the importance of Armenian Church Unity. The Bishop thanked the Assembly for its wisdom in reaffirming its commitments toward Armenian Church unity in America. He expressed the hope that through the efforts of the Interdiocesan Committee in writing the By-Laws, and the important meeting that will take place in Holy Etchmiadzin, the cherished unity of the Armenian Church will become a reality.

A more detailed account of the various papers presented at the Assembly will be included in future issues of OUTREACH.

Thank You, Providence

The Executive Council of the Prelacy extends a sincere thank you to Rev. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian, the Board of Trustees, and all the auxiliary bodies of the Sts. Vartanantz Church in Providence, who worked so diligently and unselfishly to make possible another successful NRA.

Editorial:

Sometime ago we had decided to devote the June issue to the role of women in the Armenian Church.

Through sheer coincidence a number of events have naturally come together, giving us an issue of OUTREACH dominated by women.

First, the communication from Etchmiadzin announcing the discovery of a site that could contain the remains of Saint Hripsime and her 36 Christian companions who were martyred some years prior to the establishment of Christianity as the official religion in Armenia. It is a major find and could enhance the position of Hripsime and her followers in Armenian history.

Next, the news that for the first time the NRA included a Ladies Guild panel, specifically to discuss problems and encourage more direct participation. At the NRA, Bishop Ashjian emphasized the importance of women becoming more directly involved in the problems of the Church. We hope this is a beginning, and will inspire many women to participate in all aspects of the Church.

Then, the news that Professor Sirarpie Der Nersessian was selected to receive the coveted "Man of the Year" award — now renamed "Person of the Year" award. It is the first time the honor has been bestowed upon a woman.

The trend is encouraging, and we hope it continues. We have lost the participation of too many talented women because they could not fit into the "coffee and choreg" mold. Some of our most creative thinkers are women; many of our best speakers are women; a great many of our best writers are women. Yet, because of a variety of reasons, they have been relegated to duties below their capacity and most have either remained in the background, or have simply "dropped out."

In recent years, we have witnessed the election of a few women to Boards of Trustees, and as delegates to the NRA. We hope there will be more, and we look forward to the day the NRA elects its first woman to the Prelacy's Executive Council.

If you will pardon the pun—there's a wealth of manpower in a woman, and perhaps it is time for the Armenian Church to reconsider some of the archaic rules limiting the role women can play within the Church. Our resources are limited and we must encourage everyone—male or female—to develop according to his or her own ability and interests, and not according to a set of standards prescribed by society.

We were also pleased to hear that the theme of next year's religious conference at the NRA will be "The Armenian Church in the Modern World." During the next twelve months through the pages of OUTREACH we hope to explore some of the problems facing us, not only as Armenians and Americans, but as human beings.

Prelacy Announcements

OUTREACH gives special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Antranig Aslanian of Forked River, N.J. who financially made possible the printing of our 14th issue.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Derian have generously donated \$600 to the Prelacy in memory of Maro Ajemian, the renowned pianist who was always helpful to the Armenian community and church.

The Executive Council of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America announces the establishment of a five-year program of theological education for young men with a college education. This program will include study abroad at the Theological Seminary at Antelias, Lebanon, followed by an internship in the United States and Canada. It aims to provide parish communities in North America with dedicated clergy. The program seeks men of vision and dedication to the ideals and goals of the Armenian nation and a deep love and commitment to the service of God, the Armenian church and people. For more details write or call the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, (212)689-7810. All applications must be submitted no later than July 15, 1979.

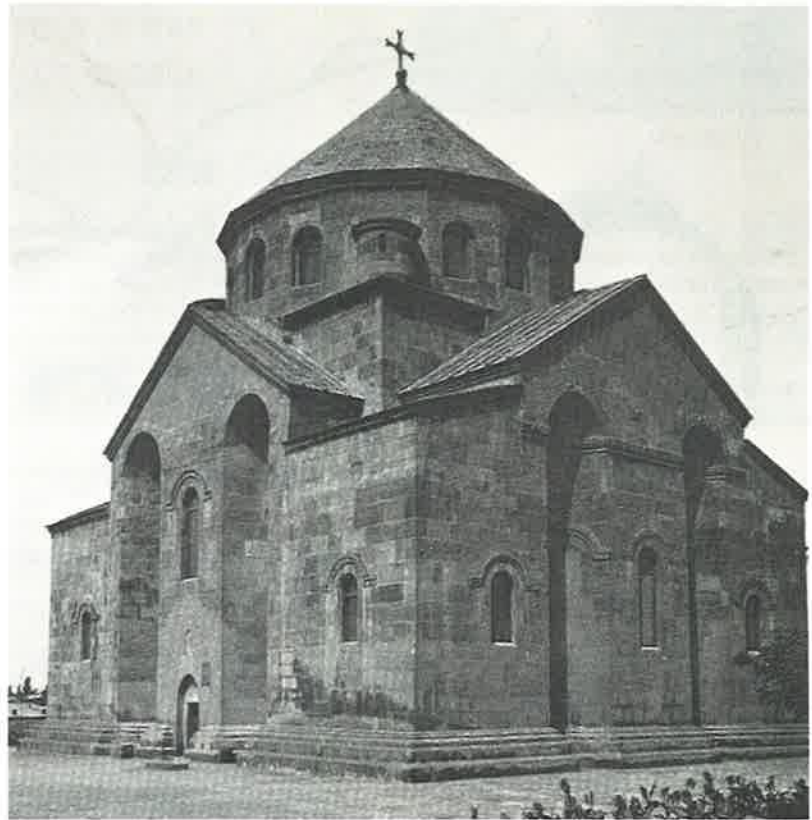
This year's Restoration Work Camp Project has been expanded to include the establishment of four international work camps: St. Thadeus, St. Stephens, the village of Haftvan, and the village of Gerdabad. The Project also plans to extend activities to Lebanon by sending a group of European and possibly American-Armenians to help in the reconstruction effort in Beirut. Due to the political situation in these areas, American-Armenians participation will be limited. Interested Armenian students who wish to participate in the Project may contact the Prelacy, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, (212) 689-7810.

OUTREACH

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EXPEDITION DISCOVERS



ՀՈՒՓՍԻՄԵԱՆՑ ՆՈՐԱՅԱՅՑ ՄԱՍՈՒՆՔՆԵՐ

Հայաստան այցելողները անպայման որ դեպի Էջմիածին գացող ճամբու աջին տեսած են Ս. Հոփսիմի հույակերտ տաճարը: Երկար տարիներ լքուած մնալէ ետք, վերջին տարիներուն ոչ միայն մասնատր ուշադրութեան առարկայ դարձած է այդ տաճարը, այլ նաեւ հայրենի հնագէտներ պեղումներ կը կատարեն այդ տարր ու պատմական հողին վրայ: Անցեալ տարի Ս. Հոփսիմի հիւսիս-արեւելեան պարիսպին մօտ շատ հին մատուռ-դամբարանի մը հիմքերը յայտնաբերուած էին: Վերջերս այս մատուռն մէջ կատարուող պեղումներու շնորհիւ Հոփսիմեանց նահատակներու նոր մասունքներ գտնուեցան: Մայր Աթոռ Ս. Էջմիածնի Դիւանը Ապրիլ 30, 1979 թուակիր հաղորդագրութեամբ նոր յայտնաբերումներու ուրախացուցիչ լուրը տուաւ սփիւռքահայութեան:

Ս. Հոփսիմի եւ անկէ քիչ մը անդին կառուցուած Ս. Գալեանի տաճարները լուր վկայարաններն են խումբ մը արի կոյսերու նահատակութեան եւ լուսատր պատկումին: Թուով 37' այս կոյսերը կ'ապրէին Հոմի մէջ, Դիոկղետիանոս կայսեր օրով: Ծառ գեղեցիկ էր Հոփսիմի եւ հեթանոս կայսրը իրեն կնութեան առնել կ'ուզէր զայն: Կոյսերուն կը մնար մէկ ելք, փախուտ տալ Հոմի եւ ապաստանիլ Հայաստան, Վաղարշապատի Հնձանք շրջանը: Իմանալով անոնց Հայաստան ապաստանիլը, այս անգամ Հայոց Տրդատ Թագաւորը պիտի ուզէր Հոփսիմեան կնութեան առնել: Քրիստոնէայ կոյսը միշտ ալ մերժեց կին դառնալ Հեթանոս Թագաւորի մը եւ ապրիլ պալատներու ճոխ կեանքը: Հոս սկսաւ անոնց շարշարալից նահատակութիւնը:

Համաձայն վկայարանութեան, Տրդատի մարդիկը նահատակեցին Հոփսիմեան կորելով անոր լեզուն եւ հրկիզելով անոր մարմինը: Նոյն անգթութեամբ հալածեցին ու նահատակեցին կոյսերու ամբողջ խումբը: Ս. Լուստորիչ Խոր Վիրապէն դուրս գալէ եւ կոյսերու նահատակութեան ինը օրեր ետք, հաւաքեց անոնց մարմինները, երեք վկայարաններ շինեց ու կնքեց իր մատանիով: Ըստ Օրմանեան Սրբազանի կատարած հաշիւներուն, 301 թուի Նոյնմբեր ամսուն տեղի ունեցան կոյսերու նահատակութիւնը եւ վկայարաններու շինութիւնը: Մէկ դար ետք, Ե. դարու սկիզբները, Ս. Սահակ Պարթեւ Հայրապետը վերատուգեց աճիւններուն գոյութիւնը եւ վերստին կնքեց զանոնք:

Այսօրուան Ս. Հոփսիմի տաճարին գեղեցկաշէն կառուցը կը պարտինք Կոմիտաս Կաթողիկոսի լուսամտութեան: 615 թուին, Կոմիտաս Կաթողիկոս Ս. Հոփսիմի աճիւնները դուրս բերաւ «մթին ու խոնա» դամբարանէն, կնքեց դարձեալ իր Հայրապետական մատանիով եւ փառատր տաճար մը կառուցել տուաւ այդ աճիւններուն վրայ: 618-ին լրացաւ տաճարին կառուցումը, Կոմիտաս Հայրապետ կատարեց հանդիսատր Նաակատիք եւ Օծում: Այս առթիւ գրեց նաեւ «Անձինք Նոփրեայք» շարականը, որ թէ՛ որպէս բանաստեղծութիւն եւ թէ՛ որպէս երաժշտութիւն, գոհար մըն է Հայ Մշակոյթի գանձարանին մէջ: Այս շարականին մէջ բանաստեղծ Կաթողիկոսը կը գովերգէ կոյսերուն նոփրումը Քրիստոսի սիրուն, կը դրուատէ անոնց մարմնական կեանքին հանդէպ ցուցաբերած կամքն ու մերժումը: Կը հաստատէ որ անոնց նահատակութեամբ մաշի ամրացան Եկեղեցու հիմունքները, կը յուսայ տեսնել անոնց զոհագործումէն ծնող «ազգս բազումս» եւ Հայ մանուկներուն վիստալը «ծերերու հրապարակին» վրայ: Այս բոլորին համար զուարճութեան հանդէպ կը հրապարակ Եկեղեցին:

«Անձինք նոփրեայք» շարականին նման Ս. Հոփսիմի տաճարն ալ որպէս ճարտարապետական կառուց, կը հանդիսանայ Հայ Ճարտարապետութեան եւ գիծերու համաշխարհային գլոխ գործոց մը: Մշակոյթի, ճարտարապետութեան եւ վկայարանութեան արդէն իսկ գոյութիւն ունեցող աշխարհին վրայ գիտական եւ վաւերական նոր լոյս կը սփռեն վերջերս Հայրենիքի մէջ կատարուած մասունքներու վերապայտումը: Արդէն Առաքել Դարիժեցի պատմիչը ժԷ դարուն կը գրէ, թէ «սոքա էին սկիզբն եւ հաստատութիւն հաստոյս Հայաստանեայց:» Հայաստանեայց այս հաստատ հաւաքին հիմամբ, կ'արժէ վերատեսութեան ենթարկել մեր ազգային եւ եկեղեցական գործունէութիւնը: Հոփսիմեանց նորայայտ մասունքներով կ'արժէ թարմացնել ներկան եւ վերագինուած նաչիլ լուսատր ապագային:

ՊԱՐՈՅՐ ՎԱՐԴԱՊԵՏ



Delegates to the National Representative Assembly - Providence, R.I. - May 15-18, 1979

STS. HRIPSIMIAN TZ RELICS

The following communication was sent to His Holiness Catholicos Khoren I, by His Holiness Vazken I, on April 16, 1979:

"It is with deep emotion we inform you that under the centuries old Martyrium discovered last year, archaeological diggings beneath the ramparts of the St. Hripsime Monastery have revealed the remains of beheaded bodies. It is most probable that the grave site and skeletons belong to the Sts. Hripsimiantz nuns who after their martyrdom were buried in one vault.

"In 618, Catholicos Gomidas built the Church of St. Hripsime and had the remains of the nuns moved inside the Church. This most recent discovery is new witness to the historical veracity of the Armenian Christian faith. The expedition is continuing under the supervision of Academician, Papken Arakelian.

"We ask you to spread this good news through Armenian and non-Armenian news media in the name of the Mother See."

This information was received with great joy by all Armenians. In a special communication, the Prelate, Bishop Ashjian, instructed all churches to celebrate this event on June 10th, which was the eve of the feast of Sts. Hripsimiantz.

Saint Hripsime is considered to be one of the earliest founding martyrs of the Armenian Church. In the second and third centuries, the Christian religion had penetrated in regions bordering Armenia. In Armenia itself, even prior to the official conversion in 301 A.D., there were a great many Christians. Because of a series of persecutions by the Roman emperor, a group of nuns, headed by Gayane, relocated to Armenia. According to tradition, one of the nuns, Hripsime, was noted for her outstanding beauty. When King Tiridates III learned of Hripsime's presence in Armenia, he summoned her and attempted to persuade her to become one of his many wives. Hripsime steadfastly refused, and as a result the King imprisoned, tortured, and finally killed the 37 virgins.

If the latest archaeological find is substantiated it would verify the Sts. Hripsimiantz tradition which has been handed down through the centuries.



Devoted Persons (excerpts)

Those who are dedicated to the love of Christ those wise virgins, and holy martyrs celebrate with Mother Zion and her daughters, the resurrection and its glory, Lord.

Heavenly sounds, words from heaven, fill the earth, perfumes fill the air, for Christ, as the immaculate lamb is sacrificed and human beings offer themselves for redemption.

Once more, powerful creator, and anew, Eden is adorned with divine growth because the tree of life transplanted to heaven bears such fruit as holy Hripsime.

Armies of angels celebrate with men and women enlisted by heaven. They conquer death, with virginity, by warring, by befriending the crucified creator who came of virgin birth.

Close friends, during their earthly lives being martyrs, and with united souls they went together to the battle armed with faith and ready to resist.

Mighty armies, and their supports, weakened, were vanquished by frail but armed women. And the king of evil, decked in dazzling power was shamed, being vanquished by virgins.

The pagans joined to dance in joy around their single blazing jewel. They traveled East and West to preach about the vision that had enchanted them.

Earthly kings heard and were thrilled. They led the search, the hunt for the secret greatness. And although they promised to aid each other in private they meant only to rob.

True fruit of Christ's vineyard, clusters crushed by the heavenly vintner, pressed into vats after hard toil, they became the quaff of the immortal cup.

How prudent were they and the wise virgins not to be overcome by sleep, or by sloth but to stay awake and stay ready to join the immortal groom's wedding entourage.

by Gomidas Catholicos (7th century)

Translated by Diana Der Hovanesian and Marzbed Margossian. Reprinted, with permission, from *Anthology of Armenian Poetry*, Columbia University Press, New York, N.Y.

Gomidas Catholicos was one of the most forceful and articulate personalities of the Armenian Church. He was born in Aghtsniq, educated at the seminary at Tvin and became Catholicos in 615. He is remembered not only as a theologian-writer but as a builder. One of his beautiful churches still stands near Etchmiadzin, the Church of Hripsime. His poem, "Devoted Persons," refers to Hripsime, the virgin martyr.

Անցորդը եւ իր ճամբան (հատուած)

Հոփսիսիմէի ճարտարապետական ձեռք երկու հակադէմ շամիրամեան եւ արայեան սկզբունքների հանճարեղ միացումն է, որով հայ ոգին սահման է քաշում իր եւ արտաքին ազդեցութիւնների մէջ: Նա առանձնանում է, հաստատելով սեփական արժէքների կայուն եւ շարժական բնոյթը: Ինչպէս ամէն մի պարզութիւն՝ նա բարդ է եւ բիրեն: Գրեթէ լերկ ու մերկ, առանց զարդի, առանց քանդակի՝ նա կուտակուած պայծառութիւն է, արեւային եւ առնական: Քանակով փոքր՝ նա սեղմուած եւ ամրապնդուած որակ է, նշան:

Հոփսիսիմէի պարզութիւնը, հոմերոսեան պարզութեան նման, երկար եւ դժուարին պրոցէսի հետեւանք է, հակադէմ եւ իրար դէմ պայքարող դաշտային եւ լեռնային, լուսնային եւ արեւային հոսանքների համադրութիւնը: Այստեղ, ճակատագրի կոյր եւ անհասկանալի ուժը եւ դատապարտուած մարդկութեան սարսափը միանգամայն յաղթուած է: Դաշտը՝ մարդկային կեանքի ողբերգութեան, կրքի եւ չարչարանքների վայրը՝ ներկայանում է իբրեւ հիմք, իբրեւ բազուկ, որի վրայ կարկառուած է անփոփոխ գագաթը, մնայուն նշանը, լեռնային գմբէթը:

Այստեղ անտառ չէ՝ ինչպէս գոթական ոճին մէջ, բլրածէ ծածկոցը՝ ինչպէս քիզանդականում, թմրկածէ զարդը պարզ տանիքի վրայ՝ ինչպէս ռուսականում, կամ թագանման վերելքը՝ ինչպէս Արեւմուտքում. այստեղ գմբէթը իրեն նպաստակ է՝ ինչպէս լեռան գագաթը: Հայկական տաճարը այն տունը չէ, ուր ապրում է Աստուած եւ ուր ժողովուրդն է համայնքը, այլ լեռան խորհրդանշանն է, արտերի հետ ապրող Մասիսի գագաթը, անհունի հետ կանգնած աստուածների բարձրաբերձ հայրենիքը:

Ուտի եւ բնական է քանդակների բացակայութիւնը: Քանդակը արտաքին աշխարհի արտացոլումն է, գաղափարների մարմնացումը, բնական երեւոյթների արտանկարումը: Քանդակը պատկերացնում է յիշատակ եւ ձեռկերպութիւն, միևնրէն հայ եկեղեցին ինքը իր մէջ պարփակուած իրականութիւն է, հաստատուն ապրում, վսեմ գոյութիւն:

Դարերից ի վեր մենք կեանքի մօտից ենք անցնում: Կիսաքանդ մեր եկեղեցիների շուրջը մատաղ ենք բերում եւ մատաղ ենք դառնում: Հայ ոգին հեռաւոր յիշատակ է, մի տեսակ սրբութիւն, որի հետ մենք խօսում ենք հեռուից, տարին մի քանի անգամ վերակոչում ենք մերենաբար, սօնի սոխի ենք համարում եւ նորից մտնում ենք մեր ամէնօրեայ լինելիութեան խառնուրդ՝ փոքրիկ զգացումներ, փոքրիկ գաղափարներ, Ռուսաստանից եւ Եւրոպայից եկած ածան ապրանքներ ծախելու համար:

Մենք պէտք է վերագտնենք խորհուրդների այն հաւասարակշռութիւնը, արժէքների այն հիմնաքարերը, որ ճակատագրականօրէն մերն է:

Կոստան Զարեան

Midwest Seminar for Armenian School Teachers Organized by A.N.E.C.

"Until they reach age twelve, children have no difficulty in learning a language," said Dr. Hasmig Seropian of Stanford University, in her lecture to teachers of Armenian schools in the midwest region attending a seminar in Chicago. After expounding on four major educational philosophies, she expressed her preference for a compromise approach. "The child's mind is open to absorb new words and concepts, but repetition is essential to learning," she stressed.

Dr. Seropian received her doctorate in linguistics from the University of California at Berkeley. A specialist in bilingual teaching, Dr. Seropian is involved in the computer program for teaching modern Armenian being developed at the Institute for Mathematical Studies at Stanford. Dr. Seropian emphasized that the concern of many Armenian parents about their children falling behind if schools give equal attention to Armenian studies is unfounded. "Children can learn many languages without any adverse effects on English or any other course," she said.

The two-day seminar, sponsored by the Armenian National Education Committee, which took place at the Orrington Hotel in Evanston on May 19 and 20, was attended by Armenian school teachers from Racine, Detroit, Waukegan, Granite City and Chicago.

Dr. Ara Caprielian, a political scientist and a teacher in the New York City public school system, lectured on how and what to teach in Armenian history. Dr. Caprielian has taught for a number of years at New York City's St. Illuminator Cathedral's Armenian Saturday School. He spoke of the importance of Armenian history in the curriculum of one-day schools. "Through history," he explained, "students learn not only the historical, cultural, and religious background of the Armenian people, but also the consciousness of being Armenian." To reach this goal he said fifty percent of the curriculum should be devoted to Armenian history and culture, which should be taught in Armenian or English depending upon the individual classroom situation.

"It is self-defeating," Dr. Caprielian said, "to insist on teaching history in Armenian even when students do not understand the language. Participants in the seminar concurred with the views expressed, and made comments about their own experiences.

Rev. Sarkis Antreassian, pastor of the Chicago community and principal of the Daniel Varoujan Saturday school, lectured on problems encountered in teaching the Armenian language. Rev. Antreassian, who has written several books, the latest of which is "Two Giants of Armenian Song," has many years of teaching experience. He spoke of the various methods of teaching Armenian, the role parents should play, and the necessity of children's literature. Rev. Antreassian pointed out the lack of auxiliary reading material and gave additional insight into the questions raised.

The seminar broke into smaller groups to discuss the topics presented. During the plenary session, reports of the panel rapporteurs were heard and the seminar reached general agreement on the views expressed.

Mr. Mossik Hacobian conducted a workshop on the educational materials developed by the Armenian Relief Society's Ethnic Heritage project. He first gave detailed explanation on the various booklets of the series, and then, with the assistance of several teachers, two *khatchkars* and a typical Armenian church were constructed. The teachers, now being the students, experienced the fun and learning that students experience.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Hagop Barsoumian, the Executive Coordinator of the Armenian National Education Committee, reported on the various projects and programs planned by the committee, as well as on its role as a centralizing and supervising body. Familiarity with, and need for modern Armenian language textbooks, history books written in English for teenagers, teaching aids including audio-visual materials, were discussed and brought to the committee's attention.

The A.N.E.C. thanks Dr. Raffi Hovanesian of Munster, Indiana, for his generous contribution which greatly alleviated the financial burden of the seminar.

Business Seminar

A tuition-free 19-week bilingual (Armenian-English) program in Small Business Management and English for Business for Armenian residents is available at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City. For further details and application call: Mrs. Alice Boudakian, Monday-Thursday, 1:30-7:30 p.m., Friday 1:30-5:00 p.m. at (212) 626-5489.

Camp Haiastan

Camp Haiastan is now accepting applications for the 1979 season. The camp is a special meeting place where each camper benefits from his association with other campers who share a common link, pride in being and associating with other Armenians. Where else could a camper hear the story of the Battle of Vartanantz while sitting around a campfire, or where else would an Armenian folk tune become a hiking song? Your child will be learning, but will be having too much fun to notice. For further information please write to: Camp Haiastan, P.O. Box C, Franklin, Mass. 02038.

FORUM

Hot Off the Press

The human appetite for news is boundless. Yet, one cannot easily pinpoint what makes a good newspaper. Gossip and tidbit items surely do not suffice in meeting man's day-to-day need for communication—communication not only with his immediate environment but also communication which reaffirms his wider, deeper link with the world.

A good publication brings the outside world in, allowing man to *come out*, confident of his basic kinships. As it confirms the momentous and constant change in current events, it also confirms that the outer turmoil *does* subside as man dares to voice and act upon recognized truths.

A good newspaper supports and challenges man's inner strength. It gives him room to react no matter the range of his perspective, whether it be a reaction he takes home with him silently, or a reaction he feels compelled to share with others.

This does not mean that sensationalism is called for. Although sometimes it does no harm, for the most part it's like a fire that instantly scorches the soil erasing all hopes of future cultivation. On the other hand, a publication that coolly avoids all hot issues is destined to extinction.

We Armenians live throughout a diaspora; thus, we are a people of many faces. We have one history. *Today* we live many different lives. Our hot issues are no less demanding than others'. We need to understand why we have disunity, why our youth is dropping out, or why it is so difficult to maintain our language and religious culture. Answers rarely come easily, but they won't come at all if the issues are avoided.

Just as our people have been compelled to relate to new worlds and new environments, our publications also must learn to relate to and about these new realities. By not recognizing and discussing the changing perspectives of our lives, our newspapers fail to support and challenge our inner strengths.

I'm certain our people are ready and willing to grapple with the issues, but a lukewarm newspaper is not an igniting force. It is the responsibility of our newspapers to risk some sparks. I'm certain many are anxiously awaiting the day they will hear the sweet cry, "hot off the press."

Hasmig Mergian
New York, New York

Readers are invited to submit articles for publication in the Forum. Articles may be in English or Armenian, but should not exceed 750 words. Mail typewritten manuscripts to: Editor, OUTREACH, Armenian Apostolic Church of America, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Թերթիս ընթերցողները ջերմորէն կը հրաւիրուին գրելու իրենց նախասիրած հարցերուն մասին, հայերէնով կամ անգլերէնով: Յօդուածները 750 բառէ աւելի պէտք չէ ըլլան: Հաճեցէք Ձեր գրութիւնները ուղարկել Աուսթրի ի խմբագրութեան, Առաջնորդարանի հասցէին:

Special Supplement

OUTREACH readers will soon receive a free copy of a special 24-page supplement devoted to Armenian Day and Saturday Schools. Entitled *Hyegag*, this publication was made possible through the cooperation of the Prelacy and the Armenian National Education Committee. It covers a general view of the schools, their history and present status. Articles and poems are written by the students in both Armenian and English. It is a valuable testament to the endeavors in teaching the Armenian language in America.

ԿԸ ՓՆՏՈՒՈՒԻՆ

Լիբանանէն Աւետիսեան ընտանիք կը փնտտէ Մանուկ Տէր Գրիգորեանը, որ ծանօթ է նաեւ Մանուկ Երկար-ձորքեան եւ Մանուկ Կրեկրի անուններով: Ծանօթներէն կը խնդրուի կապ հաստատել Ազգ. Առաջնորդարանի հետ - Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, Հեռաձայն.- 212-689-7810.

Լոս Անճելըսէն Կարինէ Խաչոյեան կը փնտտէ Արշաիր Մանուկեանը. Հօր անուն՝ Եղիազար, մօր անուն Լուսին: Արշաիր ծնած է 1907 թուին Նոր Բալթիկ Կոլպաի (այժմ կարմիր) գիւղը: 14 տարեկանին մեկնած է դէպի Ամերիկա: Լուր ունեցողներէն կը խնդրուի կապ հաստատել հետեւեալ հասցէին.- Karine Khachoyan, 1848 W. Mariposa, Apt. 106, Los Angeles, CA 90027, Tel. (213) 663-9465.

SOME BIBLE MOUNTAINS

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SINAI
Mount of the Law (Exodus 19:20)

CARMEL
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ZION
Mount of Worship (Psalms 48:1,2)

HERMON
Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8)

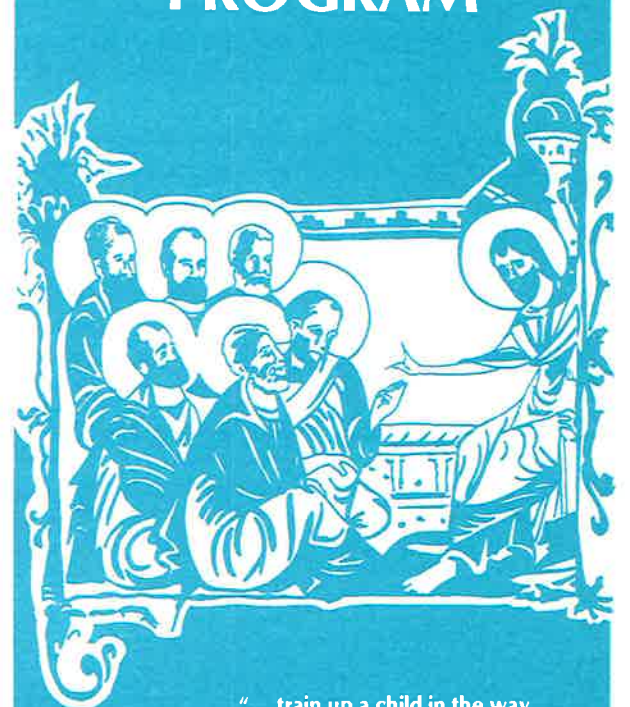
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